

App. No. 10/041,783

Amtd. dated May 4, 2005

Response to Office Action of March 25, 2005

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this Amendment, which amends claims 1, 3-8, 10-14, 16, and 18-22, claims 1-23 remain pending. In the Office Action, claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lewis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,243,747, hereinafter "Lewis"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments above and remarks below.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lewis. Applicants have incorporated some but not all of the elements of claim 3 into claim 1 and also clarified claim 1. Claim 1, as amended, recites a database object state where if an inconsistency is found between a database object configuration and a network element configuration, one of a plurality of inconsistency types is shown that includes:

- a conflict inconsistency type, meaning some inconsistency exists between the database object configuration and the network element configuration;

- a local inconsistency type, meaning no network element exists for a selected database object; and

- an agent inconsistency type, meaning that a network element exists, but that no corresponding database object exists.

Further, claim 1 recites that one or more selectable input mechanisms are provided where each input mechanism performs a different action. The inconsistency type shown for a database object state may be used to determine an input mechanism that, when selected by the user, performs an action that automatically resolves the inconsistency by editing the database object configuration and/or the network element configuration.

Lewis is directed towards allowing a user to create and edit templates to create configurations for communication networks. Lewis may disclose a host configuration button 66 that provides the user with additional options of viewing, editing, printing, and loading a host configuration. *See Lewis*, col. 7, lines 4-13. Host configuration button 66, however, does not disclose or suggest one or more input mechanisms that can be selected by a user to perform an action that automatically resolves any inconsistency by editing a database object configuration

and/or network element configuration. Rather, the host configuration button 66 in Lewis is used to pull up a configuration where a user can manually edit the configuration. *See Lewis*, col. 7, lines 4-15. Applicants submit that Lewis does not disclose or suggest a selectable input mechanism provided that can automatically resolve any consistency in the database object configuration and the network element configuration.

Further, Lewis does not disclose or suggest showing the plurality of inconsistency types claimed in claim 1. The rejection states that the conflict inconsistency type is disclosed on col. 8, lines 12-13, col. 15, lines 1-10, and col. 16 lines 7-11. Col. 8, lines 12-13 disclose reporting discrepancies between attributes/value pairs after a comparison. Col. 15, lines 1-10 disclose reporting a conflict between attributes/value pairs. Col. 16, lines 7-11 disclose an output that may be user selectable where a configuration load, a conflict notice, a notice of no action needed, and a configuration report may be provided. The cited passages are concerned with comparing configurations. For example, there may be two different configurations that may conflict. As shown on col. 14, lines 60-67 and col. 15, lines 1-10, a Policy1 applies to a LAN13 where CR1 is attached to Cisco_Rtr13 and a Policy2 applies to Cisco_Rtr13 where CR2 is attached to Cisco_Rtr13. In this case, there is a conflict between CR1 and CR2 in the configurations because they include conflicting attribute value pairs. *See Lewis*, col. 15, lines 2-5. Applicants submit that this conflict in Lewis does not disclose or suggest that an inconsistency exists between the database object configuration and the network element configuration. Rather, Lewis discloses conflicts in configuration policies.

A local agent inconsistency type is cited as being disclosed on col. 15, lines 1-10 of Lewis. Applicants submit that this does not disclose or suggest that a network element does not exist for a selected database object. Rather, it discloses that policies include configurations that conflict. This conflict in Lewis is not related to a network element existing for a database object.

An agent inconsistency type means that a network element exists, but a corresponding database object does not exist. Col. 15, lines 1-10 was cited as disclosing this element in Lewis. Applicants submit that the passage does not disclose or suggest that a network

element exists but no corresponding database object exists because, as discussed above, the conflicts in Lewis are between policies.

Embodiments of the present invention provide many advantages. For example, if an inconsistency is found between a database object configuration and a network element configuration, the inconsistency is shown as one of the plurality of configuration and inconsistency types. Selectable input mechanisms are provided that a user can select to resolve the inconsistency type found. Based on which inconsistency type is found, an input mechanism is selected based on the action the input performs and the inconsistency is automatically resolved. This is very convenient for a user because the inconsistencies are classified in the user interface, which also displays selectable input mechanisms that automatically resolve the inconsistencies using the user interface.

Accordingly, Applicants respectively request withdrawal of the rejection of claim

1. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and thus derive patentability at least therefrom.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2-7.

Applicants submit that claims 8 and 16 should be allowable for at least a similar rationale as discussed with respect to claim 1. Claims 9-15 and 16-23 depend from claims 8 and 16, respectively, and thus derive patentability at least therefrom. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 9-15 and 17-23.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

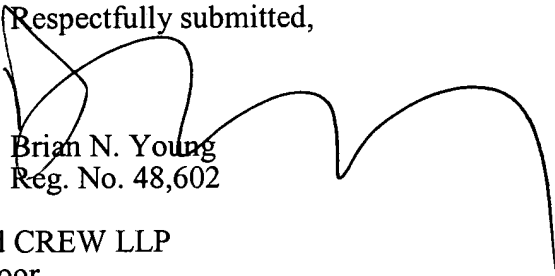
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If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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